

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1           1.       A firefighting apparatus comprising:  
2                   a vehicle;  
3                   a tank configured to carry a firefighting agent; and  
4                   a storage structure movable between a raised position above the tank  
5           and a lowered position.
- 1           2.       The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure extends  
2           beyond a rear of the vehicle in the lowered position.
- 1           3.       The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure extends along  
2           a top of the vehicle when in the raised position.
- 1           4.       The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure moves along a  
2           linear axis from the raised position to the lowered position.
- 1           5.       The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the linear axis is inclined.
- 1           6.       The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure moves along  
2           an inclined linear axis for at least a portion of time while moving between the raised  
3           position and the lowered position.
- 1           7.       The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the linear axis is between about 20  
2           degrees and about 45 degrees relative to horizontal.
- 1           8.       The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the linear axis is between about 20  
2           degrees and about 30 degrees relative to horizontal.
- 1           9.       The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the linear axis is about 25 degrees  
2           relative to horizontal.
- 1           10.      The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the linear axis is at least 20 degrees  
2           relative to horizontal.

1           11.     The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the linear axis is no greater than  
2     about 30 degrees relative to horizontal.

1           12.     The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the storage structure is configured  
2     to be in a substantially horizontal orientation while moving between the raised  
3     position and the lowered position.

1           13.     The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the storage structure includes a bed  
2     floor and a compartment below the bed floor.

1           14.     The apparatus of Claim 1 including a powered actuator configured to  
2     move the storage structure between the raised position and the lowered position.

1           15.     The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the powered actuator includes:  
2                   a motor;  
3                   a screw rotatably driven by the motor; and  
4                   a follower coupled to the storage structure and in engagement with the  
5     worm gear.

1           16.     The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure has a lower  
2     most floor no greater than 15 inches above ground when in the lowered position.

1           17.     The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure has an upper  
2     most floor no greater than 50 inches above ground when in the lowered position.

1           18.     The apparatus of Claim 1 including an inclined guide configured to  
2     guide movement of the storage structure between the raised position and the lowered  
3     position.

1           19.     The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the guide includes an outwardly  
2     facing surface and wherein the apparatus includes an interface having a pad slidably  
3     engaging the surface.

1           20.     The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the guide includes a first upwardly  
2     facing surface and wherein the apparatus includes an interface having at least one first  
3     roller engaging the first surface.

1           21.     The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the guide includes a secondly  
2     downwardly facing surface and wherein the apparatus includes an interface having at  
3     least one second roller engaging the second surface.

1           22.     The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure includes a bed  
2     floor and wherein the apparatus further includes at least one reel rotatably supported  
3     by the storage structure below the bed floor.

1           23.     The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure moves along  
2     an inclined linear axis between the raised position and the lowered position and  
3     wherein the tank has an inclined outer surface along the axis.

1           24.     The apparatus of Claim 23 including a guide configured to guide  
2     movement of the storage structure between the raised position and the lowered  
3     position.

1           25.     The apparatus of Claim 24 including a support elevating the guide,  
2     wherein the tank extends at least 180 degrees about the support.

1           26.     The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the inclined surface includes a  
2     channel at least partially receiving the guide.

1           27.     The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure laterally  
2     projects beyond the guide.

1           28.     The apparatus of Claim 27 including at least one accessory carried by  
2     the storage structure on at least one lateral side of the guide.

1           29.     The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein the inclined surface includes at  
2     least one recess into which other components of the apparatus are received.

1           30.     The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure includes a  
2 substantially horizontal floor portion and an inclined floor portion extending from the  
3 horizontal floor portion.

1           31.     The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure is configured  
2 to store hose.

1           32.     The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the tank is configured to hold at  
2 least 300 gallons of firefighting agent.

1           33.     The storage structure of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure has a  
2 length of at least about 60 inches.

1           34.     The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure projects at  
2 least 60 inches from a rear of the vehicle when in the lowered position.

1           35.     The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage structure includes a  
2 perforated floor.

1           36.     A firefighting apparatus comprising:  
2                   a vehicle having a rear; and  
3                   a storage structure movable along an inclined axis between a raised  
4 position forward the rear of the vehicle and a lowered position.

1           37.     The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the storage structure is supported  
2 in a substantially horizontal orientation while moving between the raised position and  
3 the lowered position.

1           38.     The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the storage structure projects  
2 beyond a rear of the vehicle when in the lowered position.

1           39.     The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the storage structure extends along  
2 a top of the vehicle when in the raised position.

1           40.     The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the storage structure extends along  
2     a top of the vehicle when in the raised position.

1           41.     The apparatus of Claim 36 including a tank configured to contain a  
2     firefighting agent, wherein the storage structure is higher than the tank when in the  
3     raised position.

1           42.     The apparatus of Claim 36 including a powered actuator configured to  
2     move the storage structure between the raised position and the lowered position.

1           43.     The apparatus of Claim 42, wherein the powered actuator includes:  
2                   a motor;  
3                   a screw rotatably driven by the motor; and  
4                   a follower coupled to the storage structure and in engagement with the  
5     screw.

1           44.     The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the linear axis is between 20  
2     degrees and about 30 degrees relative to horizontal.

1           45.     The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the linear axis is at least 20  
2     degrees relative to horizontal.

1           46.     The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the linear axis is no greater than  
2     about 30 degrees relative to horizontal.

1           47.     The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the storage structure has an open  
2     exposed top when in the raised position.

1           48.     A vehicular storage system for a vehicle, the system comprising:  
2                   an inclined guide configured to be coupled to a vehicle;  
3                   a storage structure coupled to the guide and configured to move along  
4     the guide while maintaining a substantially horizontal orientation.

1           49.     The system of Claim 48 including an actuator configured to move the  
2     storage structure along the guide.

1           50.     The system of Claim 49, wherein the actuator includes:  
2                   a motor;  
3                   a screw rotatably driven by the motor; and  
4                   a follower coupled to the storage structure and in engagement with the  
5     screw.

1           51.     The system of Claim 50, wherein the guide includes an outwardly  
2     facing surface and wherein the storage structure includes a pad slidably engaging the  
3     surface.

1           52.     The system of Claim 50, wherein the guide includes a first upwardly  
2     facing surface and wherein the storage structure includes at least one first roller  
3     engaging the first surface.

1           53.     The system of Claim 52, wherein the guide includes a second  
2     downwardly facing surface and wherein the storage structure includes at least one  
3     second roller engaging the second surface.

1           54.     The system of Claim 48, wherein the storage structure includes an  
2     uncovered bed and a compartment suspended below the bed.

1           55.     The system of Claim 48, wherein the guide extends along a linear axis  
2     of between 20 degrees and 45 degrees relative to horizontal.

1           56.     The system of Claim 48, wherein the storage structure laterally  
2     projects beyond both sides of the guide.

1           57.     The system of Claim 48, wherein the guide extends along a linear axis  
2     of between 20 degrees and 30 degrees relative to horizontal.

1           58.     The system of Claim 48, wherein the guide extends along a linear axis  
2 of at least 20 degrees relative to horizontal.

1           59.     The system of Claim 48, wherein the guide extends along a linear axis  
2 of no greater than 45 degrees relative to horizontal.

1           60.     A method of storing hose on a firefighting vehicle, the method  
2 comprising:  
3                 moving a floor, upon which hose is resting, along an inclined axis  
4 between a raised position in which the floor is forward a rear of the vehicle and a  
5 lowered position in which the floor projects beyond the rear of the vehicle.

1           61.     A method for storing hose on a firefighting vehicle, the method  
2 comprising:  
3                 moving a floor, upon which hose is resting, along an inclined axis  
4 between a raised position in which the floor extends over a tank of the vehicle and a  
5 lowered position in which the floor extends below a top of the tank of the vehicle.

1           62.     A firefighting apparatus comprising:  
2                 a vehicle;  
3                 means for supporting a hose; and  
4                 means for guiding movement of the supporting means along an  
5 inclined axis between a raised position in which the supporting means is forward a  
6 rear of the vehicle and a lowered position in which the supporting means projects  
7 beyond the rear of the vehicle.